

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1480

To authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct research, monitoring, education and management activities for the eradication and control of harmful algal blooms, including blooms of *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other aquatic toxins.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 8, 1997

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BREAU) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct research, monitoring, education and management activities for the eradication and control of harmful algal blooms, including blooms of *Pfiesteria piscicida* and other aquatic toxins.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Harmful Algal Bloom
5 Research and Control Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) the recent outbreak of the harmful microbe
4 *Pfiesteria piscicida* in the coastal waters of the
5 United States is one of a larger set of potentially
6 harmful algal blooms that appear to be increasing in
7 abundance and intensity in the Nation's coastal wa-
8 ters;

9 (2) in recent years, harmful algal blooms have
10 resulted in massive fish kills, the deaths of numer-
11 ous endangered West Indian manatees, beach clo-
12 sures, and threats to public health and safety;

13 (3) other recent occurrences of harmful algal
14 blooms include red tides in the Gulf of Mexico and
15 the southeast, brown tides in New York and Texas,
16 and shellfish poisonings in the Gulf of Maine, the
17 Pacific northwest and the Gulf of Alaska;

18 (4) harmful algal blooms have been responsible
19 for an estimated \$1,000,000,000 in economic losses
20 during the past decade;

21 (5) harmful algal blooms are composed of natu-
22 rally occurring species that reproduce explosively
23 when the natural system is out of balance;

24 (6) under certain circumstances, harmful algal
25 blooms can lead directly to other damaging marine

1 conditions such as hypoxia, as has been found in the
2 Gulf of Mexico.

3 (7) factors thought to cause or contribute to
4 harmful algal blooms include excessive nutrients and
5 toxins from polluted runoff;

6 (8) there is a strong need for a national strat-
7 egy to identify better means of controlling polluted
8 runoff;

9 (9) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
10 ministration (NOAA) in the Department of Com-
11 merce, through its ongoing research, grant, and
12 coastal resource management programs, possesses a
13 full range of capabilities necessary to support a near
14 and long-term comprehensive effort to control and
15 eradicate harmful algal blooms; and

16 (10) funding for NOAA's research and related
17 programs will aid in improving the Nation's under-
18 standing and capabilities for addressing the human
19 and environmental costs associated with harmful
20 algal blooms.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALGAL**
22 **BLOOM ERADICATION AND CONTROL.**

23 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
24 retary of Commerce for activities related to the research,
25 eradication, and control of harmful algal blooms

1 \$32,000,000 in each of fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000,
2 to remain available until expended. Of such amounts for
3 each fiscal year—

4 (1) \$5,000,000 may be used to enable the Na-
5 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to
6 carry out research activities, including procurement
7 and maintenance of research facilities, of the Office
8 of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Ma-
9 rine Fisheries Service, and the National Ocean Serv-
10 ice;

11 (2) \$10,500,000 may be used to carry out the
12 Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal
13 Blooms (ECO-HAB) project and related research
14 under the Coastal Ocean Program established under
15 section 201(c) of Public Law 102-567;

16 (3) \$3,000,000 may be used for outreach, edu-
17 cation and advisory services administered by the Na-
18 tional Sea Grant Office established under subsection
19 204(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program
20 Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(a));

21 (4) \$5,500,000 may be used to carry out fed-
22 eral and state annual monitoring and analysis activi-
23 ties administered by the Office of Resource Con-
24 servation and Assessment of the National Oceanic
25 and Atmospheric Administration; and

1 (5) \$8,000,000 may be used for grants under
2 sections 306, 306A and 310 of the Coastal Zone
3 Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1455, 1455a
4 and 1456c).

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